

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 108507

EXDIS MILITARY ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT KHARTOUM 1283 ACTION SECSTATA
INFO ADDIS ABABA ASMARA CAIRO FRANKFURT JIDDA LONDON
4 MAY 66.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1283

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS USCINCEUR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ET

SUBJECT: CISCO II: JOURNALIST INQUIRIES ABOUT RELEASE

REF: STATE 10(36

1. BRITISH JOURNALIST ANDREW M.D. LYCETT OF THOMSON
NEWSPAPERS LTD. CALLED AT EMBASSY MAY 4 AND WAS
RECEIVED BY DCM. LYCETT, ZHO WAS VISITING KHARTOUM TO
GET INFORMATION FOR STORY ON ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT, HAD HEARD OF RELEASE OF BURWOOD-TAYLOR
AND TWO AMERICANS. HE ASKED DCM FOR DETAILS.

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2. DCM TOLD LYCETT ONLY WHAT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HAD REVEALED (REFTEL), AND SAID OUR VRIMARY INTEREST WAS IN ASSURING TWO AMERICANS IN GOOD HEALTH AND GETTING THEM REUNITED WITH THEIR FAMILIES. DCM DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF EXACT WHEREABOUTS OF CAMPBELL AND HARRELL AND ANSWERED NEGATIVELY TO QUESTIONS AS TO WHETHER CISCO REPRESENTATIVE WAS IN TOWN.

3. LYCETT ASKED WHETHER EMBASSY OR USG HAD NEGOTIATED THE RELEASE WITH THE ELF EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH THE SUDAN GOVERNMENT. HE ALSO ASKED WHETHER THE RELEASE HAS BEEN BASED ON ANY CONCESSIONS BY BY USG. DCM SAID NO TO BOTH QUESTIONS, ADDING THAT USG POLICY TOWARD TERRORISM IS WELL KNOWN. FINALLY, LYCETT ASKED WHETHER EMBASSY WOULD HAVE ANY STATEMENT TO MAKE LATER, FOR EXAMPLE ABOUT THE STATE OF HEALTH OF THE TWO MEN. DCM REPLIED THAT NO EMBASSY STATEMENT WAS ANTICIPATED.

4. LOCAL REUTERU STRINGER SEPARATELY APPROACHED PAO SEEKING INTERVIEW CAMPBELL/HARRELL. PAO GAVE HIM NO ENCOURAGEMENT AND WE HOPE REUTERS MAN WILL NOW DESIST FROM HIS EFFORTS. UNDERSTAND BRITISH EMBASSY SIMILARLY DENYING PRESS ACCESS TO BURWOOD-TAYLOR. CAMPBELL AND HARRELL AGREE FULLY IT BEST NOT TO SPEAK TO PRESS HERE.

5. COMMENT: EARLY DEPARTMENT STATEMENT HAS UNFORTUNATELY ALERTED JOURNALISTS TO PRESENCE OF CAMPBELL AND HARRELL IN SUDAN TOO FAR IN ADVANCE OF THEIR DEP(5743 FROM KHARTOUM TO OBVIATE PRESS INTEREST HERE. WE EXPECT ADDITIONAL QUERIES BUT ARE BATTENING DOWN HATCHES AND WILL CONTINUE FEND OFF FOURTH ESTATE AS ABOVE. BREWER UNQUOTE SISCO

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